

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-15 are the claims that have been examined in the application. Claims 12, 13 and 14 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claims 1, 5-8 and 12-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grdina, US Patent No. 6,965,872 in view of Aarnio, US Publication No. 2004/0078274. Claims 2, 3, 9, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grdina and Aarnio as applied to claims 1 and 8 above, and further in view of Mandler, US Patent No. 6,785,661. Claims 4 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grdina and Aarnio as applied to claims 1 and 8 above, and further in view of Luke, US Patent No. 6,131,087.

By this Amendment, Applicants are amending claims 4 and 12-14.

Preliminary Matters

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, receipt of the priority documents and indicating that the drawings filed November 15, 2001 are acceptable.

Claim Objections

Claims 12, 13 and 14 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

Applicants hereby amend claim 12, 13 and 14 to be dependent from claim 8, thus obviating the Examiner's objection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. *Claims 1, 5-8 and 12-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grdina, US Patent No. 6,965,872 in view of Aarnio, US Publication No. 2004/0078274.*

Claim 1 recites, in part, "communicating the information request to a plurality of information provider terminals." The Examiner alleges that Grdina discloses all of the aspects of claim 1 except for the step of charging said information requester terminal a prescribed information supply fee and mediation commission. However, the Examiner alleges that Aarnio cures this deficiency, and that one of ordinary skill in the art would find it obvious to modify the system of Grdina with the selling price information of Aarnio because one would have been motivated by profit to allow payment for services provided. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Grdina discloses a system for facilitating the sale of commodity-like goods/services. Grdina teaches the creation of a database which allows a consumer to search the database using various search criteria in order to find the cost of goods/services being offered by a plurality of retailers. See abstract of Grdina. Separately, retailers may upload prices for selected goods/services to web pages created by the database so that the consumer may search for various goods/services. See col. 12, lines 15-44 of Grdina. However, Grdina fails to disclose communicating the information request to a plurality of information provider terminals. Rather,

Grdina receives an information request from a user, searches the database for the requested information, and provides the information to the user. Grdina does not disclose that the information request is communicated to a plurality of information provider terminals. Thus, Grdina fails to teach this aspect of claim 1.

Moreover, Aarnio fails to cure the defects noted with respect to Grdina. Aarnio discloses an on-line subscription system and method for facilitating a transaction between a customer and a subscription server. The subscription server provides a user with information regarding available products at a predetermined period of time. However, Aarnio fails to communicate an information request to a plurality of information provider terminals.

Therefore, for the reasons listed above, claim 1 is patentable over the applied art. Claims 4-7 and 12-15 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from amended claim 1. Claims 8 and 15 recite similar limitations to claim 1, and are patentable for reasons analogous thereto.

B. Claims 2, 3, 9, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grdina and Aarnio as applied to claims 1 and 8 above, and further in view of Mandler, US Patent No. 6,785,661.

Claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 are dependent from claims 1 and 8. Because the combination of Grdina and Aarnio fail to teach or suggest all of the elements of claims 1 and 8, and because Mandler fails to cure the defects noted with respect to claims 1 and 8, claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Claims 4 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grdina and Aarnio as applied to claims 1 and 8 above, and further in view of Luke, US Patent No. 6,131,087.

Claims 4 and 11 are dependent from claims 1 and 8. Because the combination of Grdina and Aarnio fail to teach or suggest all of the elements of claims 1 and 8, and because Luke fails to cure the defects noted with respect to claims 1 and 8, claims 4 and 11 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Conclusion

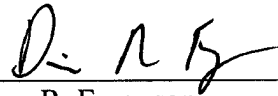
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/987,667

Q67321

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Dion R. Ferguson
Registration No. 59,561

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: May 25, 2007